

The REAL TRUTH JOURNAL is published quarterly by the Real Truth Publications, an affiliate of the Wheaton area United Pentecostal Church. The purpose of RTJ is to analyze and refute false teaching. All articles are written by Paul Ferguson unless it is stated otherwise. Subscription price is \$5 a year.

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the REAL TRUTH



Eph. 6:17

JOURNAL

VOL. 3, NO. 3

SUMMER OF 1976

DEBATE

BEN SHROPSHIRE OF THE HAZELWOOD, MO. CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Scriptures teach that the gifts of the Spirit as listed in 1 Cor. 12 and the miraculous signs ceased at the close of the apostolic age.

PAUL FERGUSON OF THE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH DENIES

PART I: HELD AT THE GATEWAY COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM IN APRIL OF 76

"Set for the defense of the gospel." Phil. 1:17

PREFACE

Brother Ferguson was scheduled to address some students at the Gateway College of Evangelism in St. Louis on defending the faith. A few days before Bro. Parkey called Bro. Ferguson and asked if he minded the presence of a Church of Christ minister who would be there for the purpose of affirming his viewpoint. Bro. Parkey stated that he had already contacted Mr. Ben Shropshire the minister at the Hazelwood, Mo. Church of X. Bro. Ferguson told him this would be acceptable since his position kept him ready at all times and that a position other than the truth would not permit anyone to ever be ready regardless of the time.

In a couple of days Bro. Parkey called back what the proposition would be and who the opponent would be. The debate was held in the college chapel during April of 1976.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Ben Shropshire for his kindness in not only allowing his speeches to appear in print but for preparing them camera ready. We are printing the first half in this issue.

MR. SHROPSHIRE'S FIRST AFFIRMATIVE

I want to extend to every one of you this morning a sincere greeting, and also to express my appreciation for the opportunity of being in your midst and studying with you from the Word of God to learn what the truth is on the proposition that has been announced. I extend greetings to Mr. Ferguson, who shall be my opponent in this discussion, and to Mr. Parkey, and to all of you who are present for our discussion. We are glad that you are here. When I agreed to participate in this discussion, I informed Mr. Parkey that I do not consider myself a debater. I have heard a few debates; I have read a few more debates; and I have even had two or three debates in my experience. But whenever the opportunity arises for me to be able to defend what I believe to be the truth from the Word of God, I am willing to try to do so. When a person believes he has the truth, and he has the opportunity to get that truth forth; he does not really need to depend upon his debating skills or any experience, or on his own power or wisdom, but rather he ought to depend upon the power of God's word. Therefore, I welcome the opportunity that has been given to me in this discussion. I appreciate the invitation that was extended to me by Mr. Parkey.

Obviously, we cannot cover everything that we would like to say in the two hours that we have this morning. There are many more things that we would like to add to it. As the opportunity may afford itself in the future to have other discussions such as this one, or else for us to get together and discuss these things privately, I would be most happy for us to be able to do that.

The proposition reads: "The Scriptures teach that the gifts of the Spirit as listed in the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians and the miraculous signs ceased at the close of the apostolic age." Being in the affirmative on this proposition, it is my obligation to define what we are talking about. By the word "Scriptures," we mean the twenty-seven books of the New Testament as they describe the existence, the activities and the functions of the church in its existence today. Therefore, we are not talking about human testimony, about personal experiences. These are not to be used so far as our discussion today is concerned. They are all irrelevant. By the word "teach," we mean "to make known, to show how, to impart the knowledge of," according to Webster. By the word "gifts" in this proposition, we understand that this word comes from the Greek word "charisma," and it means a "favor which one receives without any merit of his own; a gift of divine grace, and in the technical Pauline sense it denotes the extraordinary powers distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating in their soul by the Holy Spirit." That is from Henry Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, page 667. By "of the Spirit," we mean that these powers were imparted by the Holy Spirit. These gifts were not gifts of

Said gifts given by H.S. when said gifts given by apostle, which is it?

the Holy Spirit Himself, but were powers given by the Holy Spirit to the early Christians, as we read in 1 Cor. 12:8. Then the next part of the proposition reads "as listed in the twelfth chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians." Specifically, they are found in verses four through eleven of this chapter. They are: "the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings and workings of miracles, prophecy, the discernings of spirits, the divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues." Altogether, there are nine of them listed. These are all, I believe, miraculous gifts of the Spirit imparted to members of the early church by the Holy Spirit in order that the early church might be able to function in the absence of the completed revelation - the New Testament. The knowledge, the word of wisdom, the faith, as well as the others were miraculous measures of wisdom, knowledge, and faith which were imparted by the Holy Spirit in the giving of these spiritual gifts. If one of these gifts is in use today, all of them are. Our proposition reads that all of them have ceased, and therefore the negative in this proposition would have to maintain that all of them still are in existence. The next part of the proposition says "and the miraculous signs" such as are listed in Mark 16:17-20: the casting out of demons, the speaking in tongues, the handling of serpents, the drinking of deadly poison without being harmed, all of which were given in order to confirm the word which the disciples were to go forth and preach. These we also believe have ceased. On the other hand, if one of them is still in existence today, then all of them must be and my opponent is obligated to prove they all are. Then, the word "ceased" means "to come to an end, to become extinct, to pass away." The last part of the proposition says "at the close of the apostolic age." We do not necessarily mean by this at the death of the last apostle; but rather we mean that at the time when there were none living who had had any immediate contact with any of the apostles, and to whom had been imparted by the apostles the power to work these gifts. When all such people who had received from the apostles the power to work these spiritual gifts had died, then the gifts ceased to exist and were no longer performed by anyone. This is what we mean by the close of the apostolic age.

We are trying to show in the discussion of this proposition what the Scriptures teach about this matter. As we said a while ago, personal experiences - that is, what you may have seen or what you may have had happen to you - are completely irrelevant to the issue. We are interested only in what the Bible has to say about it. That is the way our proposition reads. Now, if the Scriptures do teach that the miracles have ceased, then they have ceased. That is just all there is to it. And whatever experience you may have had to the contrary means nothing at all if the Scriptures teach that they have ceased. If the Scriptures teach that they have ceased, and there is occurring something today that appears to be the same as the charismatic gifts, you can be sure that they are not the same. There is some difference if the Scriptures teach

that they have ceased. I believe that the so-called charismatic phenomena today can be explained in another way than by believing that what happens is the same as the real charismatic gifts that we read about in 1 Corinthians 12 or the workings of miracles as in Mark 16. But it is not our purpose today to try to explain how or why such things are occurring; rather we intend simply to show that the charismatic gifts of 1 Corinthians 12 and the workings of miracles of Mark 16 have ceased. That is, they are no longer being performed or exercised by anyone today.

For our first argument on the proposition, I want to make this statement: When the purpose which God intended the spiritual gifts and miracles to serve can be determined, and when it can be shown that such a purpose was accomplished thereby, this clearly indicates the cessation of the gifts and miracles inasmuch as God would no longer have a purpose for them. Please notice our first chart.

GIFTS AND MIRACLES HAVE CEASED BECAUSE THEIR PURPOSES HAVE BEEN FULFILLED

1. To Confirm the Spoken Word, Jn. 3:1-2, Acts 28:6, Mk. 16:15-20, 1 Cor. 14:22.
2. To Edify, Strengthen, and Teach the Early Church, 1 Cor. 14:3, 19, 26; 1 Cor. 12:7, 28-31; 1 Cor. 13:8-13.
 1. Gifts were "awedding clothes" of the early church until "perfect" revelation.
 2. Did not have New Testament scriptures to confirm their word.
 3. The New Testament scriptures were not available for teaching and edifying the early church.
 4. Hence, spiritual gifts and miracles were needed for these purposes.
 5. We have the New Testament scriptures today for these purposes.
 6. What purpose do gifts and miracles have today?
 7. The word is confirmed today, Heb. 2:3.

The first purpose of spiritual gifts and miracles was to confirm the word that was spoken to indicate that the speaker was one who was sent from God, and that the word he preached was the word of God. In John 3:1-3, we find Nicodemus coming to Jesus and saying, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God for no one can do these signs that thou doest except God be with him." Or, "except he be sent from God." So the purpose was to confirm that which Jesus Christ said and that he was the Son of God. In Acts 28:6, we read of the Apostle Paul picking up a bundle of sticks and being bitten by a viper - one that would have

killed him under ordinary circumstances. However, he did not drop over dead, and the pagans that witnessed this incident then came to believe that Paul therefore must be a god. In their heathenism, not understanding the full implications of the miracle, they at least understood that much - that there was some kind of divinity associated with the Apostle Paul in view of the fact that a miracle had occurred. As a result, Paul was able to speak to them.

In Mark 16:15-20, Jesus described the miracles that are going to follow those that go forth preaching the Gospel. He gave them the commission to go and preach the word. Then He said, "And these signs shall accompany them that believe; in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them..." In verse 20 He said that they went forth preaching the word and the Lord confirmed that which they preached by the signs that followed. The purpose, then, of the miracles in the New Testament days was to confirm the word that was spoken. In 1 Corinthians 14:22, with regard to the charismatic gifts, we find that the apostle Paul teaches that tongues are given for a sign to the unbeliever to convince him of faith in the word that was being spoken. All of these passages simply show to us that one of the functions or purposes of the miracles of the New Testament days, either the charismatic gifts or the ones listed in Mark 16, was to confirm the spoken word; that those who were performing those miracles were men sent from God; and that the message they were preaching was the word of God, which should be received, accepted, and obeyed as the Word of God. In those days which they were teaching was the Word of God. They did not have the New Testament then to show that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. They had only the miracles to perform that served this purpose, or which accomplished this end for them. Thus, they were given the miracles to confirm or to prove the truthfulness of what they had to say.

Secondly, the charismatic gifts also were given for the purpose of edifying, strengthening and teaching the early church. If you will read with me in 1 Cor. 14:3 you will see that this was one of the functions of the miracles: "But he that prophesieth" (this was one of the spiritual gifts listed) "speaketh unto men edification and exhortation and consolation." Then again in 1 Cor. 14:19 we read: "Howbeit in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding that I might instruct others also, then ten thousand words in tongue." The purpose, again, was to edify and not to confuse. In 1 Cor. 14:26 we read: "When is it then brethren when ye come together each one hath a psalm, hath a teaching, hath a revelation, hath a tongue, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." These spiritual gifts, then, were for the purpose of the edification of the church.

Now, look with me to 1 Cor. 12:17 and we will see the idea is

further confirmed there. "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit" (whichever one of the nine gifts) "to profit withall." That is, that the whole church might be profited. In 1 Cor. 12:28-31 we read that not everyone in the church had all of these gifts. One had one. Another had another one. Some perhaps had none at all. "And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then mirrors, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, divers kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? have all gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But desire earnestly the greater gifts. And moreover, a more excellent way show I unto you." I am suggesting that these charismatic gifts were for the purpose of the strengthening, the edification, the teaching, the encouragement, the admonition of the early church, which were to be used for these purposes in the absence of the completed and perfect revelation that was to be given to them later and which we have today in the form of the New Testament. And that, therefore, since the New Testament has been given to us in its completed form, the charismatic gifts are unnecessary today.

Now then, let us notice this. The Scriptures teach that the gifts, the charismatic gifts of 1 Cor. 12, were like the swaddling clothes of the early church to accommodate the members in their needs until that which was perfect would come. Read with me now from 1 Cor. 13:8-13, where we find Paul saying this: "Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies they shall be done away; whether there be tongues they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away." Three of the charismatic gifts are mentioned: tongues, knowledge, and prophecies. These and all of the other spiritual gifts were going to be done away. They were to cease. Why were they going to cease? "For we know in part, and we prophecy in part." That was one reason suggested by Paul as to why they were going to be done away - because the charismatic gifts provided them only with partial knowledge. When would they cease? "But when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child; now I am become a man, I have put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror darkly; but then as face to face: now I know in part, but then shall I know fully even as also. I was fully known. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three: and the greatest of these is love." Paul is just saying in this passage, 1 Cor. 13:8-13, that these spiritual gifts - prophecies, speaking in tongues, working of miracles, and all the rest - were given to the church for two purposes. These purposes were: (first) to confirm the word that was spoken to show that those men were sent from God, that God was with them, and that the message was the word of God; and (secondly) to edify, strengthen and teach the early church because the members then did not have the Word of God in written form to preach and to study and we have it today.

Then, when the church grew up - that is, when it reached the point of maturity so that it had the completed revelation - the miracles were done away. They were not needed any longer because the written Word of God could do these two things. It could confirm the preaching. Today when I want to try to convince someone that I am preaching the truth, just as I am doing right now, I refer to this book to confirm the truthfulness of my word, not a miracle. The Lord has not afforded me with the ability to work miracles to confirm the word because He has given me the completed and perfect revelation to use. We recognize that the early church did not have the New Testament scriptures to confirm their word, as we do today.

Furthermore, the New Testament scriptures were not available to them for the teaching and edifying of the early church, and they needed the charismatic gifts and the miracles for that purpose also. Hence, the spiritual gifts and the miracles of the New Testament days were needed for these two purposes. Today, though, we have the New Testament scriptures which serve these purposes for us adequately, so that the spiritual gifts and miracles are superfluous and unnecessary now. The purposes which God assigned to them have already been fulfilled and they have been supplanted by that which is perfect - the New Testament.

In Hebrews 2:3 we read that the Word of God has already been confirmed by the miracles that were witnessed by those people. This simply shows to us what the purpose of those miracles was and that that purpose has been completely fulfilled in the New Testament being revealed unto us.

Please notice our second chart:

THE DURATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 1 Cor. 13:8-13

1. Prophecies, Knowledge To Be Done Away, Tongues To Cease:
 1. Only Provided "Partial" Knowledge.
 2. Perfect Revelation To Come Would Make Them Unneeded.
2. Church With "Perfect" Revelation = "Grown Up"
 1. Could Put Away Childish Things (spiritual gifts)
 2. Could "See Clearly" - No Longer Partially As With Spiritual Gifts
3. "Perfect" - TO TELEION - Neuter Gender - a "thing"
 1. Contrasted with what was "in part"
 2. It Was The Completed Revelation of N. T. Scriptures, Jude 3, Rom. 12:2, James 1:25
 4. Holy Spirit Failed If N.T. Was Not This, John 16:13
 5. N.T. Does Today What Gifts Did Then

Let us look again at the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians and see if we can learn what is taught there. The duration of the

spiritual gifts of 1 Cor. 13:8-13 is under consideration. The prophecies, and the knowledge were to be done away, and the tongues were to cease. Those three are just used by Paul in the place of naming all nine of the gifts that are otherwise mentioned in the twelfth chapter. He says that these had to be done away because they, at that time, were only providing partial knowledge. No one at that time had a complete revelation; the charismatic gifts provided only partial knowledge, and ultimately had to cease for that reason.

Secondly, they had to cease because there was a perfect revelation that was coming, and when it came there would no longer be any need for that which could only afford a partial revelation. The church, in its beginning needed these spiritual gifts, like a baby needs its swaddling clothes. It had to have them because it did not have the completed revelation. Now that the church has grown up, that is, since it has received the perfect revelation mentioned in this chapter, the church has put away the things pertaining to its infancy - that is, the spiritual gifts. It does not need them any longer, Paul says. And secondly, the church could see clearly. It no longer has to get by with the partially given revelation provided in the spiritual gifts; it has a completed revelation in which it can see clearly - as clearly as a person seeing another person "face to face" - and does not need any longer the spiritual gifts.

The word "perfect" in 1 Corinthians 13:10 comes from a Greek word to TELEION and it is in the neuter gender, which means that it is a thing rather than a person that is coming. Some people try to make this Jesus Christ who is the perfect one coming, but it cannot be in view of that. Notice in the context that it is contrasted with what was in part. Whatever was in part was contrasted with that which is perfect. That which was in part was the speaking in tongues, the prophesying, and the partial knowledge. That which was perfect which was coming would be a perfect knowledge, a perfect prophesying and a perfect confirmation of the word; so that the miraculous gifts would be unnecessary. Whenever the perfect revelation of God's word was given to mankind in the form of the New Testament scriptures, the church was able to put away these childish things. They were not needed any longer. They could see clearly, in God's word. The New Testament uses the word "perfect" to describe the Scriptures in James 1:25 where James refers to the "perfect law of liberty." Then in Jude 3, we are told that the faith has once for all been delivered to the saints. In Romans 12:2 we see the apostle Paul referring to the revelation of God given to mankind in the first century as being the perfect will of God. Today God's revelation is completed in the perfect form. The Scriptures that appear to us in the pages of the New Testament are that which is perfect, of which Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians 13. The New Testament scriptures, being completed, did away with the need for any kind of spiritual gifts; as Paul said they were going to be done away with. If the New Testament scriptures are not the complete and perfect revelation of God's will, as they appear in the New Testament, then the Holy Spirit failed in His work as promised by Jesus. If the New Testament is not the perfect and complete revelation of God's word, the Holy Spirit did not do what Jesus said He was going to do.

Perfect Scriptures are given to Church thru Jesus Christ

You remember in John 16:13 that Jesus told the apostles that He was going to go away and send the Comforter in His place. When the Comforter was to come, He would guide the apostles into all the truth. Now then, when we find someone today saying that the charismatic gifts, including prophesying, are still needed, are still being performed, we ask, why are they needed? The Holy Spirit was to have guided the apostles into all of the truth back then. We will notice a little more about this later. So then, if the New Testament is not perfect and complete today, and our sole guide in religion, the Holy Spirit failed in His job. The New Testament does teach today what the gifts did then. The gifts confirmed the word and they built up and edified, taught, and instructed the early church. But the New Testament does these things today.

Please notice our third chart:

DURATION OF MIRACLES AND GIFTS ALSO SHOWN IN THE WAY THEY WERE IMPARTED IN N. T. DAYS

1. Imparted by the Baptism of Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-21, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 11:15-18
 1. After this there was only one baptism, Eph. 4:5
2. This "One Baptism" was water baptism, 1 Peter 3:20-21
 3. No one today is being baptized in the Holy Spirit
2. Imparted by the "Laying On" of the Hands of the Apostles, Acts 6:8, 5-6; Acts 8:14-13, Acts 6:5-6
 1. Sam. converts had not received miraculous powers - Why?
 2. Peter and John had to come from Jerusalem for this - Why?
 3. They received power for spiritual gifts when apostles laid hands on them
 4. Acts 19:1-6 - Spiritual gift resulted from laying on of Paul's hands
 5. No living apostle now - No laying on of Apostles' hands now - How now?
 6. Where is another way by which gifts and miracles were imparted? Scripture?
 7. Therefore Spiritual Gifts have ceased!

I would like to look now at a second argument. I believe the duration of the spiritual gifts and miracles which are recorded in 1 Cor. 12 and Mark 16, is likewise seen in the way the ability to perform such was imparted. After the establishment of the early church the power to work miracles and spiritual gifts was imparted to the early Christians in only two ways - neither of which is available to anyone today. As a result of which, nobody

is exercising any of the charismatic gifts or performing any miracles today. Therefore, all such have ceased. Number one: the charismatic gifts were imparted by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, of which we read in Acts 2:1-21, where the twelve apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues so that every man present was able to understand in his own language what was being preached - that is, the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness, offering repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Likewise, in Acts 10:44-48, the household of Cornelius also was baptized in the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in tongues. In both of these instances, revelation was being given by the apostles and by the ones present in Cornelius' household. In Acts 11:15-18 the Apostle Peter says that these, the household of Cornelius, have received the like gift that was given to us back there at that time. I want you to notice that Peter did not say that these have been baptized in the Holy Spirit just as all Christians are being baptized in the Holy Spirit since the beginning. He has to go all the way back to the very first day of the existence of the church in order to find another case in which anyone else had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and I challenge anyone to find a single other instance in the New Testament scriptures where anyone else other than those on these two occasions was ever baptized in the Holy Spirit, as these two occasions show us they were. I am suggesting, then, that the Holy Spirit imparted the power to work miracles and to perform the charismatic gifts in this one way, by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Subsequent to the baptism of the Holy Spirit which we read about in these Scriptures, Paul says in Eph. 4:5 that there was only one baptism, not two baptisms. If you have water baptism on the one hand and Holy Spirit baptism on the other hand still today, you have two baptisms and you are in contradiction to what Paul teaches in Eph. 4:5. There is only one baptism now. This one baptism is water baptism, 1 Peter 3:20-21. Thus, at the time when that passage was written, the one baptism in existence was water baptism. No one today is being baptized in the Holy Spirit. No body was baptized in the Holy Spirit after the tenth chapter of the Acts. You cannot read in the New Testament of another occasion after that. After that the only baptism in existence was water baptism, 1 Peter 3:20-21. Therefore, since no one is being baptized in the Holy Spirit today, no one today is receiving any kind of charismatic powers from the Holy Spirit by being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, the only other way that you can read about in which the early Christians received charismatic powers was by the laying on of the hands of the apostles, that is after the church was established. In Acts 6:18 you read about one who was performing miracles upon whom the apostles had laid their hands: "And Stephen, full of grace and power wrought great wonders and signs among the people." That is the first time you have anybody performing a

miracle in the book of Acts except the apostles, and you will read in Acts 6:5-6 that the apostles had laid their hands on this man and had given him the power to perform these miracles. In Acts 8:14-13, you will find another one upon whom the apostles had laid their hands, of which you read in Acts 6:5-6, performing miracles. This is the second instance of someone other than the apostles performing a miracle. On both of these men the apostles had laid their hands and imparted to them the power to work miracles. Now, look with me to one other Scripture: Acts 8:14-24, where we read about Peter and John coming up to lay their hands upon the converts in Samaria in order to give them the power to work miracles. After Philip had preached, working miracles by the power which had been given to him earlier when the apostles had laid their hands upon him as we read in Acts 6:5-6, there were many believers baptized into the name of Christ there on that occasion. But these Samaritan converts had not received any miraculous powers up to that time. Why had they not? Why had none of them been able to work any miracles? Peter and John when they heard about this, had to come up from Jerusalem in order for these people to have the power to work miracles. Why did they have to come up? Because Philip could not impart to his own converts the power to work miracles or give to them the charismatic gifts. The power could be received to work these miracles whenever the apostles only laid their hands upon these Samaritan converts. Before they laid their hands on them, the Samaritan converts could not work miracles. After they did, they could. Simon the sorcerer, one of the converts in Samaria, observing what the apostles had done, wanted to buy the power from Peter and John to lay his hands on other people so he could give them the power to work miracles. He could see where the power came from - by the laying on of the apostles' hands. That is how the gifts were imparted.

In Acts 19:1-6 we read about twelve people in the city of Ephesus who had been converted, who did not have the power to work miracles. But when the Apostle Paul laid his hands upon them, they began to speak in tongues. They had one of the charismatic gifts. Why? Because Paul, one of the apostles, had laid his hands upon them. The ability of the apostles to lay their hands on the early disciples, thereby imparting to them the power to work miracles, was one of the signs of the apostles. There are no living apostles today, however, and therefore there is no laying on of any of the apostles' hands today. How, therefore, can anyone work a miracle or exercise a spiritual gift if there is only the possibility of anyone receiving such power in one of these two ways? If a person has not been baptized in the Holy Spirit, how can he receive a miraculous power? If no one is having the apostles' hands laid on them today, how can anyone receive such power? I challenge my opponent to show a single instance when anyone in the church received such powers as we are talking about in any other way except in the two ways we have described. And if these two ways are not available to anyone today, how can anyone receive that power? Where is another scripture by which gifts or miracles

were imparted in another way? Put the scripture in there (on the chart) and give it to us. Therefore I maintain from these two arguments that the miraculous gifts of 1 Cor. 12 and Mark 16 have ceased, because no one has the power to perform such since the apostles have not laid their hands upon them. If then such power does not exist today, what all may be going under the guise of charismatic gifts must be explained on some other basis than their really being charismatic gifts. Since there are no other ways taught in the Scriptures by which the power of the Holy Spirit can be imparted, and since these two ways are not available today, we believe we have established our proposition showing that the gifts and the miracles of the New Testament days have ceased.

Keep in mind that our proposition reads that the Scriptures must teach this. Let us look at only what the Scriptures have to say, and see where else or in what other way, if any, anyone ever received such powers than the ways we have shown, and then we will have answered our question. I have shown that the Scriptures teach that the spiritual gifts and miracles could only be imparted in one of two ways; that neither of these is available today, and therefore nobody can work them now. Secondly, we have shown that the purpose of all such miracles of New Testament days was fulfilled when the completed and perfect revelation was given to mankind, and therefore miraculous signs and spiritual gifts are not needed today for the confirmation of the word and the teaching and edification of the church. Today, we are using God's word to confirm our teaching, not miracles, and that is the very best demonstration, in my judgment, of the truthfulness of my proposition. We are using the Scripture's teachings for our teaching and edification, not the performance of miraculous signs and miracles. I believe, then, that we have shown that the Scriptures teach that the miraculous signs of 1 Corinthians 12 and Mark 16 have ceased to exist and that no one performs them today.

BROTHER FERGUSON'S FIRST DENIAL

Ladies and gentlemen, gentlemen, moderators, Mr. Shropshire:

It affords me great pleasure to come before you and to contend for the all sufficient faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. I want to express my appreciation for my friend's coming here and for the fine presentation which he has given. And I want everyone to listen and learn. That's what we're here for. It's a time of reasoning to sit down with the scriptures and see what the scriptures say about my friend's proposition here this morning. And I want to examine the scriptures which he has given and so I'm going to put his charts up on the screen again. And I want to examine these charts. I want you to look at them as carefully as you possibly can. And we're going to study this morning from the Bible.

We want to take a look at this about the gift of miracles ceasing. He said that he's got some scriptures on his chart here and we want to look. He said he's going to prove his proposition or had proved it by the scriptures that the gifts had ceased, and that the apostolic age had closed. And I wonder and I want you to look at this chart (Ferguson put up s's first chart) and if possible copy these scriptures down ladies and gentlemen. Get them down in your notes. And I want you to look them up at home, in the privacy of your home, as many of them as you can. And I believe you're going to be asking yourselves this question: What scripture? What scripture was it that said the gifts ceased? What scripture was it that said the apostolic age closed?

NOTE: Be sure and turn to page 4 and read this chart.

He's got up there on his chart... I like these charts! I believe it's a good chart. I want everybody to look at it. He's got there "The gifts were the swaddling clothes of the church." And he threw the clothes away. And he's got the church naked! Stark naked! (laughter from audience) Luke 24:33 says Jesus spoke these words "to the eleven AND those with them." And in the 49th verse it says, "You shall be clothed with power from heaven." And I'm thankful this morning ladies and gentlemen that I am in a church that is clothed with power. The word endue (endued with power) is a Greek word that means "to clothe with power." He's got us naked. He's got the scripture up there in 1 Cor. 12 on his chart that says that the gifts are the arms and the legs, the hands and the feet, the eyes and the ears. He's got them all chopped up saying the church is doing great. Stark naked! A basket case! (laughter from audience) All right! Now look at the chart folks and see if we can find out what scripture? I want to know the scripture where the gifts ceased. I thought I was going to get

it and I looked for it; and I was watching for it. You'll see an ivory billed woodpecker fly by that chart before you ever will see a scripture (like that) come on there.

And he's got "confirmed" (on there). I want to call to your attention I Cor. 1:6 along that line, along the idea of "confirm". He said that once confirmed, then you don't need to bother with it. He said that once confirmed, always confirmed. Now let's see if that's so or not. I Cor. 1:6 says, "The testimony of Christ was confirmed among you." And then of course according to my friend these gifts should have ceased there. And did they cease? Nope! The 7th verse says, "So that you come behind in no gift waiting for the coming of the Lord." He says you've got to have a new truth to confirm, and you've got to confirm the spoken word. Well I wonder when Elijah called the fire down from heaven what new truth he had to confirm. It had already been confirmed that Jehovah was God according to Deut. 4:35-39 (which says) that the miracles of the Exodus were to confirm this. And here that poor old Elijah didn't know it and he called the fire down from heaven for nothing because it had already been confirmed. And the people in Corinth shouldn't have been working those gifts because the message had been confirmed. And the word "confirm" according to Thayer's Lexicon means "to prove the truth of". And my friend has debates and writes is trying to prove the truth of the Bible, and God can't even do it with a little old miracle.

And he's got a lot of scriptures up there. He's got Mark 16:15. And that doesn't say that the gifts are done away with! He uses this for baptism. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved... these signs shall follow them that believe." Not the apostles. Because the first person (I) is the one speaking, the second person (you) is the one spoken to; but "them that believe" are the ones spoken about. "Them that believe." A group of believers. "In my name they'll cast out demons, in my name will they lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them." (All this is) still in the church today until he can prove a scripture that says they're taken out. God set them in the church. I Cor. 12:28 says, "God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondly, prophets... miracles, helps, governments, and diversities of tongues." My friend has deacons for helps and he has deacons for helps and elders for governments, teachers for teaching, but he doesn't have prophets for prophesying and the apostles for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry.

And he said, "We don't need prophesying anymore. Agabus pro-

phesied a famine, and they knew when it was coming. He prophesied the dangers that awaited Paul. You can't look in the scriptures and see there's a fellow waiting for you behind a lamp post at 10th and Clark street. And I'll tell you my friend needs them in his church. I was reading in James Bales' book Pat Boone and the Gift of Tongues. He said there are secret cells of tongues speakers in the church (of Christ). Bales says, "Who are they?" He needed prophecy and the gift of discernment to find out who those fellows were. It might be some of the ones sitting at my friend's table here. One of those ones who are speaking in tongues! I don't know. I'm not going to accuse that on him.

But they had the scriptures to confirm the word a way back then because if you look at Acts 6:9 and 10 Stephen was confusing them and they couldn't resist the wisdom by which he spoke. Acts 9:22 Paul was confusing the Jews demonstrating that Jesus was the Christ. He said they didn't have the Bible to prove Jesus was the Son of God. Well what do you think Ps. 2:7 says? "Thou art my Son this day have I begotten thee." And they had a whole Bible full of scriptures. Acts 18:28 Apollos was confusing the Jews and was thoroughly refuting them showing plainly that Jesus was the Son of God. They had enough scripture to prove it back then. The word was all sufficient then. But I want you to know that the all sufficient word in I Tim. 1:6 said, "Stir up the gift that is within you." I Tim. 3:17 said the word would make a man "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work" then. But the same all sufficient word in I Tim. 1:6 said, "Stir up the gift that is within you." And you don't have the all sufficient faith unless you have all the faith that was delivered to the saints. When you have all the faith Jesus said, "You'll be able to move mountains." Praise God! And he's got the church naked though and they don't have the swaddling clothes anymore.

NOTE: Be sure and turn to page 7 and read this chart.

All right let's see. We'll get the second chart on here and we'll teach the truth from my friend's charts here. "Duration of Spiritual Gifts." This was about as close as he came to having a scripture. But I want to examine that scripture so I want you to turn with me. And I hope you had time to write down all of those scriptures that he had to see if you could find one, just one little one, that said the gifts ceased or the apostolic age closed. Well he's got the scripture I Cor. 13:10 on his chart here. And that is the scripture that affirms that the gifts are still in the church because "that which is perfect" has not come yet. And he's got on his chart here "put away childish things." But I want you to notice that this is not maturity in this age because in I Cor. 14:20 it says, "In understanding be perfect (or 'be mature' the Greek indicates)." And Paul said in Phil. 3:12-14, "I don't count myself to have apprehended neither to have

already been perfect but I look for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul didn't think he was perfect. And in fact if my friend's position on "that which is perfect" being the completed NT is true, Paul thought he would be there. He said, "then shall I know." And he missed it by 20 years because the NT was not written till 20 years after his death. It says in verse 12, "For now I see through a glass darkly." But my friend says, "No I see quite a bit better than Paul did." He went up to the third heaven and saw things that he couldn't utter, things unlawful to utter. But he said, "I see more clearly than you." But Paul said "I'll then face to face." Not face to a book, but face to face. And all through the Old Testament that phrase "face to face" was used of personal appearances of the Lord. (as Ex 33:11) As John said, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be but when he shall appear we shall see him as he is." We see through a glass darkly now but then face to face. We know in part but then we will know even as we are known. And so he hasn't found that scripture in there. He has not got the scripture for that.

He's got Jude 3 in there, but he doesn't have the all sufficient faith because Jude verses 20 and 21 says, "But ye beloved building yourselves up in your most holy faith praying in the Spirit." Paul said in I Cor 14:14, 15, "When I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth but my understanding is unfruitful." If my friend had the all sufficient faith once for all delivered to the saints, he would be praying in an unknown tongue, and he would be building himself up in the most holy faith by praying in the Spirit. But he doesn't pray in the Spirit because he thinks it's as extinct as the do-do bird and the ivory billed woodpecker and the unicorn. You'll find a moose with green feathers before he finds that scripture where the gifts have ceased and one for where the apostolic age closed. How he's got that up there, but he doesn't have that (scripture).

Romans 12:2 said, "That you may know what is that good and perfect will of God." And if the perfect will of God is "that which is perfect"; how come that the gifts didn't cease at Rome? In fact the 6th verse of that same chapter talked about them having the gifts. They didn't have an apostle there yet. Paul said, "I don't want to build on another man's foundation." But Paul said, "I'm going to come and give you another gift to strengthen you." Rom 1:11. According to my friend you don't need strengthening.

Then he's got John 16:13 up there on his chart. I like his chart. No sense in me using mine when I've got good charts like this. But I'll tell you what folks he thinks that the only purpose of gifts is in John 16:13. I'll tell you what we need the Holy

Spirit because he's sure not in all truth. He needs something to guide him into the truth. And they had the scripture to prove the truth then. But he thinks that's the ONLY purpose of the gifts. He's like the Baptists. He thinks you're saved by faith only. And he thinks that's the only purpose of the gifts. And it not the only purpose of the gifts because he had a whole bunch more on his chart up there.

And the Word was perfect in the NT over there. Paul said the word will thoroughly furnish you to every good work. (II Tim 3:17) And the same perfect Word said to stir up the gift that was within you.

(For Chart 3 see page 9)

All right now. Let's take a look at another one of his charts here. Chart no. 3. And I guess that's all that he had up there. That's all he's left for me here. See if I'm getting everything. I guess I'm getting everything. All right. He's got some ways they were imparted here. Well how about the fellow in Mark 9:38 who was casting out demons in Jesus' name? What did he say about Jesus' name up there? In my name then that believe will take up serpents. They'll lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. And they'll cast out demons in the name of Jesus. Were the apostles the only ones that used the name of Jesus and knew it? Were they the only ones it worked for? When they healed that lame man, they said, "In the name of Jesus this man is strong before you."

And in Matt 17:20 Jesus said, "If ye have faith like a grain of mustard seed, then you'll be able to move mountains." And oh, but Stephen! Folks he had Stephen not working miracles before the apostles got their hands on him, but let me tell you folks the Bible don't teach anything that's a forty second cousin to that. We want to take the Word of God in Acts 6:3. In Acts 6:3 it says, "Seek out some men full of faith." He was full of faith before the apostles touched him, before they even knew who he was. It says, "Look for somebody full of faith." Jesus said in Matt 17:20, "If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you'll be able to say to this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea. Stephen was moving mountains before they (saw him). How in the world did they know he had the qualifications? How did they know he was full of faith if they didn't have a NT like this guy says here?

All right now we'll get thru to his errors here. (I Cor 14:12) He said they couldn't work miracles unless they got the apostles to lay hands on them. But Paul told them in Corinth, "Inasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excell to the edification of the church." "If any man speak in tongues, let him

pray that he might interpret. He didn't say, "Wait till I get there, and I'll plow my old hand down on you and you'll get another gift." But he said, "You don't have to wait for me just pray for it and seek for it, and you'll get it." By the name of Jesus and by faith. Hallelujah! That's the only two ways I know of!

All right. One baptism. I'm going to get some of the scriptures in there on that chart. How much time do I have? 20 minutes yet! Praise the Lord! (laughter) 20 minutes! Ha, ha, ha! I could sit down now. I wouldn't need to talk anymore. But I got plenty to say don't you worry. I got a lot of stuff back here. (laughter) All right now. I'm going to write some scripture in my friend's little thing here. And I want him to deal with these. There's not just something pretty for you to look at. But I want you to deal with them. You're supposed to deal with them. All right now. Let me write some. I'm going to get another color here. I'm all fixed up for this kind of situation. And I want to put some scriptures on here. Now I'll just talk to you a little bit. (Writes on S's chart as he talks.) All Jerusalem and all Judea and all the regions round about came out and John the Baptist said, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire." I can just see some of those guys coming up and saying, "How come we didn't get the Holy Ghost over at the upper room?" And Peter said, "Well the Lord changed his mind. You can't get it anymore. There's a fellow over here in St. Louis that outrided that. All right now in Acts 10:23 Peter said he took some brethren from Joppa to watch Cornelius. And then it said, "Those of the circumcision were amazed that on the gentiles was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Now in Acts 10:47 old Peter stood up there and said, "Can any man for bid water for these who have received the Holy Ghost as WE did." He was talking about himself and the brethren from Joppa. He didn't say, "which have received the Holy Ghost as I did. He didn't take apostles with him. He took brethren from Joppa. Now we'll let you look up there too. And he's got to deal with this. It's his own chart. Just a few of them! He asked for one. I'll give him a few. I don't have room to write any more or I'd give some more. (Luke 24:33) Jesus speaking to the eleven AND...the eleven ANH! Look at that. Look it up! And go and write some of these fellows and see if they can unravel this for you. (Luke 24:49) Jesus speaking to the eleven AND those with them said, "You shall be clothed with power." But my friend says, "No I'm going to get you stark naked because you're going to take the swaddling clothes off and you're going to be in a fix." I'll tell you!

All right now let's see what my friend has got here on his proposition. He's got "the Scriptures teach". I wonder where he found the scriptures at. As he went over his charts, I wondered what scripture. What scripture teaches that? Where is the scripture where signs ceased? Where are they at? Where's the scripture at? Just one of them! Where's the scripture where the apostolic age closed? The scriptures teach that the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and the miraculous signs ceased." He didn't show a scripture where they ceased. He did not show a scripture where the apostolic age closed. The only part of his proposition he was able to get off the ground was that they are listed in 1 Cor. 12. We already believe that. (laughter) He's like this one certain boat. They say the best way to sink it is to get it into the water. That's the way my friend is. (laughter)

Now he had something about the one baptism. And I want to deal with that. I'm going to get one of my charts up there.

The following is the first chart used by brother Ferguson:

Does ONE BAPTISM cover all the meanings of the word? If so-

1. No martyrs after 82 AD. (Mark 16:38)
2. No baths after 82 AD
3. No air conditioners after 82 AD.
4. No one was baptized into body after 82 AD (1 Cor. 12:13)
5. No one can be immersed into Spirit and be IN the Spirit after 82 AD. (Rom. 8:9)

Eph. 4:4 "One body" (of Christ)

(one human body? bodies on cars, bodies of water, heavenly bodies, busy bodies)

Does the word baptism cover all the meanings of the word? He said there's only one baptism so you can't have Spirit baptism today. In Mark 10:38 Jesus said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with. Are you able to be baptized with that baptism?" It was a baptism of suffering. According to my friend there's no martyrs after Paul wrote in 62 AD there's one baptism. The Greek word for "baptism" was the word they used for taking baths. I talked to some Greeks and they said it's the ordinary word. But you can't take baths any more. Some of you will be glad to hear that. There are no air conditioners. There's a Greek phrase where there was some calm cool air coming down. They were baptized with it. No. 4 "No one was baptized in the body." It said, "By one Spirit you are all baptized into one body." But you folks can't get into the body of Christ anymore. No sir! 62 AD! One baptism! You can

not get into the ~~body~~ of Christ anymore. You're not in the body of Christ like you thought you were. But it's baptism into water and baptism into the body of Christ. One birth: two elements. Birth of water, birth of the Spirit. Now I want him to deal with that. I want him to straighten this out this morning. (No. 5). No one can be immersed in the Spirit and be IN the Spirit. You can't be IN the Spirit. If you're immersed in the water, you are in the water according to the meaning of this word. But you can't get in the Spirit; so you can't be pleasing to God. So you're none of Christ's according to my friend here. Now all right! He's doing great. I liked his speech. He's doing real good. And we appreciate him coming here.

I want to put some more charts on here. How much time do I have? 6 minutes. Praise God! Enough time for us to go up in the rapture. All right! 'Things in Part'.

THINGS IN PART vs THINGS COMPLETE

THINGS IN PART	(1 Corinthians 13:10) THINGS COMPLETE
Healing (1 Tim. 4:20)	Complete health (Phil. 3:21)
Tongues (1 Cor. 14:9)	One language in heaven. No more curse. (Zeph. 3:18)
Discerning of demons (Acts 16:16-18)	Complete absence of demons to discern. (Rev. 20)
Knowledge (Balaam wants to know who secret tongues speakers are!)	1 Cor. 4:5: All hidden things brought to light.
1 John 3:2 unclear	1 John 3:2 As He is
1 Cor. 12:4: Unuttered	1 Cor. 13:12: Face to face (Ex 33:11)
Rev. 10:4: Unwritten, sealed	
Prophecy:	
Acts 11:28 (famine)	Rev. 21:8, 27; 7:18
1 Kings 6:8: (ambush)	No hunger, thirst or deceit in heaven.
Acts 21:10, 11	

Healing. But when that which is perfect is come, (perfect health) Thayer's lexicon says that it's "perfect, complete, entire, want-

ing in nothing lacking to completeness and perfection... That perfect state of things to be ushered in by Christ at his coming. Now I want him to deal with this. We're going to see face to face when Christ come not face to a book. Paul is going to be there and is going to "know even as I am known." All right now. When Christ comes, we won't need healing any more. Healings are in part. Paul had to leave Trophimus at Malta sick. We will get complete health when Christ comes. We will have our glorified bodies. Tongues are a set amount of words, but we'll have one language in heaven. No more curse. Zeph. 3:9. I want him to deal with this. Discerning of demons. Yes, you can't discern the demons. He said why do you need this stuff? Well when they speak in Acts 16 by the word of God and say, "These are men which show you the way of salvation." You can't tell by the teaching. You got to tell by the discernment. That's the way it is with my friend. He needs to know who those people are who are speaking in tongues in his church. All right now. When the demons are gone, complete absence of demons, what would you need a gift like that for? And then knowledge. Some things are unclear. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." (1 John 3:2) Some things unaltered. Some things unwritten and sealed. (Rev. 10:4) The seven thunders plus 1 John 3:2. "We will see Him as He is." 1 Cor. 13:12 - We're going to see face to face. Always of a personal appearance in the Old Testament. I want him to deal with that. Take it up! Don't just let it hang on the slide there and wave at it as it goes by. Prophecy. They prophesied a famine. They prophesied an ambush. They'll be no more famines or hunger or thirst. No deceivers in heaven.

All right I'm going to show you I'm going to get this other chart on before I get out of here. This is why I do not think "that which is perfect" can be the completed New Testament.

Chart 7: Why "That which is perfect" Cannot Be Completed NT.

1. No neuter singular word for complete Bible. (1 Cor. 13:12; 15:24 to telos)
2. "Come" used 125x of Christ but NEVER of the completed Bible. (cf. Aorist)
3. Paul expected to be there when perfection came. (1 Cor. 13:12) He died 20 years before NT was completed!
4. THEN we see face to face not face to a book! (1 Cor. 13:12; Ex. 33:11; Num. 12:8) (Paul knew ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD but still saw darkly and had gifts.)
6. Many things STILL unfinished, wanting, incomplete.

deal with these things.

All right now #3. We see face to face, not face to a book (Ex. 33:11) I already went into that the personal appearance, and he has not seen Christ, He hasn't seen Christ so the gifts are still with us. We see through a glass darkly. We don't see clearer than Paul did. He went up to the 3rd heaven and knew all the counsel of God, and we've many things still unfinished. I got a whole chart full of them. How much time do I have? Just enough time for another chart.

Ferguson's Final Chart:

Things not presently 'brought to an end, finished, completed,' (teleo) Gingrich, p. 216; Thayer, p. 619.

1. The mystery of God, (Rev. 10:7)

2. The will and words of God, (Rev. 17:17)

3. Gospel preaching, (Matt. 24:14)

4. Everything not restored to perfection (Acts 3:21, 892, 7n83)

1 Cor. 13:10: "to teleion" ("That which is perfect")

'Brought to its end' finished, wanting in NOTHING NECESSARY TO COMPLETENESS. Perfect;... the perfect state of things to be ushered in by return of Christ from heaven." Thayer, p. 618)

All right I'm going to leave them (the charts) all up here. And he can deal with any one he wants, or he can leave them off. But I'd like to see him write some scriptures in this one here with the boxes in it. I believe we'll see an ivory billed woodpecker fly by before we'll see anyone write a scripture in that. I know you boy's was wanting to get some material for your paper but don't count on it this morning. Here are things not presently "brought to an end, finished, completed." That's what the word "that which is perfect" means. And the verb teleo means the same thing. And the mystery of God was finished in Rev. 10 when they said time shall be no more. Rev. 17:17 said the words of God are going to be finished or completed when these nations do God's will. Gospel preaching still incomplete and the end is going to come when the word is preached to all nations. Everything is not restored to perfection (Acts 3:21) Both Thayer's lexicon and Bauer's lexicon say that Acts 3:21 means the restoration of everything to perfection at the coming of Christ. It says, "Whom heaven must receive until the time of restoration of all things to perfection." 1 Cor. 13:10. This is from Thayer's lexicon; 'brought to its end, finished, wanting in nothing necessary to completeness

And he had on his chart there about the neuter singular, but I want him to find a neuter singular word somewhere in the NT for the completed Bible. The word for "scripture" is feminine. The word for "word" is masculine. The word for "law" he had up on his chart. I remember that. I forgot to tell you about it. He had James 1:25 up there. "The perfect law of liberty" and 'law' there is masculine, not neuter singular, my friend. And it is an embarrassment to my friend anyway to put James 1:25 up there because they had the perfect law of liberty and James 5:14 says, "If any are sick among you let him call the elders of the church and let them anoint him with oil and pray over him. The prayer of faith shall save the sick." And I wonder if my friend's elders, if he has any with him, if they've got their oil. I wonder what socket they got their oil in. I want to know if your elders anoint with oil! The elders back then were anointing with oil. Don't say the perfect word has come because they had the perfect law of liberty then, but it was masculine not neuter singular. Sixty eight times in the NT Jesus Christ is referred to in the neuter singular! However I didn't say that was Jesus Christ. As in of course I John 1:1-"That which we have seen, that which we have heard, and so on." But I didn't say it was Jesus Christ so don't misrepresent me on that. I know that he wouldn't. I believe it's the perfect state of things to be ushered in by Christ at his coming. All right. I want him to do that. I want him to show what the neuter singular word for completed Bible is.

"Come" is used 125x of Christ but never of completed Bible. Number 3: Paul expected to be there when perfection came. In 1 Cor. 13:12 he said, "Then shall I see, then shall I see, then shall I see face to face, then shall I know even as I am known." But poor old Paul died, missed it by 20 years. But he said, "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." He knew it back then and the gifts should have ceased according to my friend. All right now he said that it was something that I've got to expect, but I don't have now. He said it's all the counsel of God. But Acts 20:27 said, "I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God." They had it then. But this was something they were expecting in the future. And I want my friend to deal with it. Take it up! Take these things up one at a time like I did your charts. I didn't have a right to put these charts up here friends, until I went through his. But he's got to deal with these things. He's got to take them up. And I'm going to be like that scripture about Paul taking the serpent up. Paul didn't take the serpent up. The serpent took him up, and he shook it off into the fire. (laughter) And I'm going to shake him off into the fire. If he doesn't deal with these things, his seat's going to get mighty hot this morning! You're in for a rough ride if you don't

perfect...the perfect state of things to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven.

Have I got any time left? I got a minute! Now! One minute! All right! We're back to this here: "The scriptures teach" (P. put following chart on the screen at this point:

Proposition to be affirmed:

The Scriptures teach that the gifts of the Spirit listed in I Cor 12 and miraculous signs ceased at the close of the apostolic age.

Scripture given:



APOSTOLIC AGE CLOSED

Now my friend's done a good job. He's got part of his proposition done. He's proved that they're listed in I Cor. 12. And he's going along fine. I'm sure in his next 15 minutes he'll prove where they ceased and where the apostolic age closed. And I think that he ought to give attention to these things: "the scriptures teach." And I'm glad to see that he stayed in as far as he did not go to any experience. I'm glad to see that because we are talking about what the scriptures teach. You show me a scripture that teaches your doctrine that said they ceased and the apostolic age closed and I'm ready to back track. I'm ready to make a change.